

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1904.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

	Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.
DAIL	. Per Month 80 5
	. Per Year 6 0
	Y, Per Year 2 0
	AND SUNDAY, Per Year 8 0
	AND SUNDAY, Per Month 7
Pos	ge to foreign countries added.

Published by The Sun Printing and Publishing basociation at No. 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for leation wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

### The Convention Verb.

What is the difference between "instructing" the Hon. THOMAS C. PLATT, the Hon. CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW, the Hon. B. B. ODELL, Jr., and the Hon. FRANK S. BLACK to use all honorable means to bring about the nomination of Mr, Roose-VELT for President and "directing" them to do that same thing?

No difference, so far as the practical effect of the mandate is concerned. If "instruct" is the word commonly employed by conventions in such resolutions, "direct" is the mandatory verb used in most legislative enactments. It cannot be said that one form is less peremptory than the other, or leaves a wider margin of discretion to the dele-

gates at large. On the other hand, there may be a psychologic difference. If to a mind like Governor ODELL'S, not very skilful in the use of English other than commercial, and not particularly sensitive to the finer shades of meaning, it seemed that his convention would commit itself less definitely or afford less satisfaction to his great and good friend in Washington by departing from the conventional phraseology and substituting another verb for "instruct"-then, even if his sense of relative verbal values is defective, the intention, at least, is not without political significance.

But if Mr. ROOSEVELT is satisfied, all right. In the eloquent words of the Hon. JACOB A. RIIS, let the understrappers sputter.

#### In Mindanao.

Reports from Mindanao indicate that Major-Gen. LEONARD WOOD is doing his best to earn his new salary. He is about the busiest fighting man now on the list. Mr. HASSAU being buried, the case of Mr. TARACA is taken under consideration.

Mr. TABACA is requested to bring himself to the office at Vicars for a consultation. He refuses to come. He declines to be healed of his political infirmities. Some officers might have allowed him to sulk himself to death in his faraway mountain fastness. That is not the new Major-General's way. If a panglima, a datto or a sultan does not walk up to the office and take his medicine when told to do so, a detachment is sent out to show him the error of his way. That is one of the principal things we have to do in that country. We did not go there to establish a health resort.

But, as the recent despatch reads, there is a certain peculiarity about it. It seems necessary for Gen. WADE to indorse the expedition. This appears to reflect upon Gen. Wood's individual judgment. The fact that such an affair took place should be its own sufficient explanation and its own assurance of its need and its justification. It seems necessary to say that "every effort was made to bring the Moros to terms peacefully." This should also be a superfluous piece of information.

After the Hassau expedition in Jolo, it was reported that Gen. WADE had gone to that island to look into the matter, and it now seems necessary for him to stamp an official approval on the Taraca expedition.

Japan's Invasion of Manchuria. There seems to be no doubt that the Japanese, who have reached the Corean bank of the Yalu, intend to cross that river-if, indeed, they have not already crossed it-and to follow their Russian opponents into Manchuria. This programme is pronounced a grave, if not fatal, mistake by the military correspondent of the London Times, who compares such an advance to NAPO-LEON'S invasion of Russia, and warns Japan that in Harbin, should she get

there, she may find a Moscow. There is something, doubtless, to be said for this view of the movement which Japanese strategists are believed to contemplate; but to our mind the arguments against it seem preponderant. It may be true that if, last January, Russia had given a formal assent to the estab- generations, though probably their prelishment of a Japanese protectorate over Corea, there would have been no war. Such a protectorate now exists, and, according to the correspondent of the Times, all that Japan needs to do is to keep the Russians out of the Corean peninsula. That she should be able to do while she retains ascendancy at sea, especially as the railway from Fusan to Seoul, and its northward extension from Seoul to Wiju, will be available, at no distant day, for military purposes. So, too, if Japan should capture Port Arthur, and secure control of the Liau-tung taining that coign of vantage also by

the acquisition of the two defensible REICH's own Hungary? Are they in any peninsulas named, Japan should resolve to penetrate the Asiatic mainland and push an army to Harbin-which is some four hundred miles distant from has eliminated a feature of disciplinary either Wiju or Newchwang-she would be confronted by difficulties and disabilities similar to those which the Russians find it so hard to surmount. With | may be better for the masculine developthe task of maintaining communications would become more arduous, and the

means of her sea power.

one or two great battles, and that they would succeed in occupying Harbin, at the junction of the railways running on the one hand to Vladivostok and on the other to Newchwang and Port Arthur, we must admit that nothing necessarily would be settled; for all that Russia would need to do would be to organize in Siberia-many hundreds of miles westward of Harbin-a new base of supplies, and, when a fresh army had been assembled there, attempt to cut the Japanese line of communication with the sea. Thereupon the hostile force at Harbin would feel itself constrained in all likelihood to retreat, as NAPOLEON under corresponding circumstances was forced to retreat from Moscow.

So much may be urged for the view of the military situation in the Far East which is taken by the correspondent of the Times. Against it must be set the fundamental fact that Japan is an exceedingly poor country, and could not support the burden of a prolonged and costly war. It is for her indispensable to bring the contest to an end as quickly as possible by a decisive stroke. Her strategists hope that the capture of Harbin would prove such a stroke. Should their calculations prove mistaken-should the Russians have the will and the power to protract the struggle from one year to another-then it is probable enough that Japan would succumb to exhaustion.

There is some reason to think, however, that Russia might be exhausted first. Harbin cannot be compared to Moscow from the viewpoint of Russian resistance to invasion, for Moscow is in the heart of Russia, whereas Harbin is many thousands of miles away. A four hundred miles from the sea, and would be connected with it by two railways-we assume that the fall of Vladivostok would follow the capture of Harbin-could be maintained far more cheaply than could the new Russian army, which, in the case supposed, would have to be organized at some point east of Lake Baikal. Had there been in 1812 a railway from Dantzic to Wilna and from Wilna to Moscow, Na-POLEON would not have needed to retreat, and it is probable that Russia would have tired of the contest earlier

than the French invader. The correspondent of the Times sums up his comments in the remark that a shark can worst an elephant in the water. but not on land. A metaphor is not always an argument. Experience has shown that in the typical Japanese there is as much of the tiger as of the shark.

### The Theory That Boys Are Feminized Under Women Teachers.

The opinion expressed by the Mosely Education Commission after a careful inspection of our schools and school system, that because of the vast preponderance of women teachers the American boy is becoming feminized, is supported, it seems, by some of our teachers, if not many of them; and among the number are included women teachers themselves.

It is a new view of the condition of things in this country and wholly contradictory of the judgment of American social tendencies which has been expressed heretofore by foreigners generally. That judgment has been that in America there is less of the ideality and the sentimentality which we associate with the feminine temperament more especially than in European States. For example, in the National Review for this month is an article by a Hungarian philosopher, Dr. EMIL REICH, to which we have referred before, wherein he describes the "salient characteristics of the American man" as "energy and push, "readiness for constant change," "quickness in grasping practical facts," "eagerness in collecting knowledge." "passion for ordered system." Are these feminine characteristics? So far from that the Hungarian philosopher's generalization is that "the American lacks many of the influences" which the "form of womanhood" "esteemed in Europe best" "alone can bring to bear"-"lacks that great regulator of our inner steadiness, a well

balanced emotional life." We do not quote the opinion of the Hungarian philosopher as having any special value in itself, but rather as representative of a very general European opinion regarding the American. He is described as a "hustler," a being "of the earth earthy," the creator and the victim of "commercialism," self-assertive and, in the words of Dr. EMIL REICH, of a "far too rapid development." That is, the Yankee as the European world conceives him is of a too distinctively masculine

The American is the product of the public school. The only instruction the vast majority of American men have received has been in the public schools, where women are in the great majority among the teachers and have been for ponderance is now greater than ever. In the old village school, boys and girls, at least in their early ages, were pupils together; and their teachers very largely were women. The most vigorous masculine characters of American history came from such schools, and very often had no other school instruction and association. Run over the list of the men at present dominant in the world of American enterprise, and it will be found that the schooling of by far the greater part of them was of the same kind. Millions of boys are now in American public peninsula, she might count upon re- schools of which the teachers are chiefly women. Is there observable among them any femininity of disposition dis-If, on the other hand, unsatisfied with | tinguishing them from the boys of Mr. way less masculine in character?

It may be contended that the abolition of corporal punishment in our schools education essential in the training of boys, and it is a point well worth careful consideration. A more Spartan training every mile of advance into the interior | ment, and we observe that women teachers themselves incline toward that nomination. Probably BANKHEAD has opinion-or, at least, to the view that offended many of his constituents by value of maritime ascendancy would after boys have reached 12 years of age refusing to grant impossible requests, decrease. Moreover, even if we assume they should be put under the training and has roused the ire of numerous inthat the Japanese would be victors in of men only, though under that age, I fluential voters in forty years of public

they contend, boys are better managed by women.

It may be said to be demonstrable that at the earlier age the refining influence of women teachers is necessary for the boys in our public schools. It is a part of their education of the greatest importance. In families generally it is the mothers more especially who have to do with the training of such early boyhood; but there comes a period in a boy's life when he is likely to resent control by a woman and when he seems to need the sterner control of a man.

This, however, does not involve any consent to the theory of the feminization of boys by leaving them longer under feminine influence. So far from that, the result rather may be to emphasize their masculine assertion for the very reason of feminine attempts to hold them in restraint. Even if they are put under the charge of men only, may it not be that the man teacher, without corporal punishment as a means of enforcing discipline, has little advantage in the way of sex? He cannot assert his strength and his authority and demonstrate his masterful physical ability by the use of the rod. He must rely upon moral influences, in the use of which a woman may be his superior.

In New York schools three-quarters of the teachers are women. Look at the boys in those schools and the boys who have come from them, and where is there observable any feminization of their characters? They may or may not have suffered in their masculine development because of the disuse of the rod in the schools; though in place of it there has been instituted a sort of military discipline-as shown, for instance, at the recent fire in a school building-which Japanese force at Harbin, which is only furnishes a substitute in moral training perhaps even more efficient.

#### Mayor Harrison of Chicago on New York's Virtue.

As a result of a recent visit to Chicago, New York official expressed certain uncomplimentary opinions regarding the administration of that city. Mayor HARRISON now arises and makes his bow to New York with a vigorous "You are another." "Chicago is lawless," says the New York man. "New York is corrupt," says Mr. HARRISON.

There is really no occasion for any hard feeling or loss of temper over the matter. So far as we are aware, neither New York nor Chicago lays any claim to being an advance copy of the New Jerusalem. The difference in their respective departures from the paths of absolute municipal rectitude is a matter of degree rather than of kind.

New York has about twice as many people as Chicago, but they are very much the same sort of folks in both cases, a multitude and a mixture. In both towns there are people of pure and noble life, and the facilities for moral and social offences are fairly equal in both. Dirty streets, the "strong arm man," and the "hold-up" may be a little more conspicuous in Chicago than in New York, but the latter city has its own peculiar sins. One circumstance is common to both. New York and Chicago are better and cleaner morally and physically, than they have been at certain periods in

their earlier history. Mr. HARRISON tells us, and the facts support him, that "Chicago has rescued its City Council from the clutches of the corruptionist, and has to-day a legislative body of as high character and standing as any legislative body in the land. Excellent! And having swept corruption from her City Hall, she will do wisely to begin sweeping the dirt and the thugs from her streets.

Referring to New York, Mr. HARBISON remarks:

" What shall be said of this great city to take away the bitter taste in the mouth, the sense of acute nausca which attacks all rightminded citizens who follow the columns of its press when one of its loca

We do not know that there is anything to be said except to ask Mr. HARRISON to be as charitable toward us as he can. There are a lot of New Yorkers, both in the municipal government and outside of it, who are doing what they can to remove the cause of "bitter taste" and "acute nausea." At all events, a mutual study of methods which have proved successful in municipal redemption will be much more profitable than an exchange of shouts of "Sodom!" and "Go-

### Hobson and Bankhead.

Capt. RICHMOND P. HOBSON'S all but successful effort to defeat Representative JOHN HOLLIS BANKHEAD of the Sixth Alabama district for a renomination for Congress illustrates the slender hold that nearly all statesmen have on their constituencies. Hobson has shown no fitness for legislative life, and BANKHEAD is a veteran. Hobson appealed to the voters on his reputation as a fighting man, and his platform was 'a big navy." But BANKHEAD has a fighting reputation, too, for he served four years in the Confederate Army, and received three wounds-a record more gory than Hobson's, though perhaps not so spectacular.

BANKHEAD'S experience in public life as a legislator began in 1865, when he was elected to the General Assembly. He was reelected in 1866 and 1867. He was a member of the State Senate in 1876 and 1877, and of the State House of Representatives in 1880-81. In 1881 he became warden of the Alabama Penitentiary, and held the office until 1885. He was elected to the Fiftieth Congress, and has returned to every Congress since.

Hobson's creditable record is entirely as a naval constructor and officer. In public appearances immediately after his exploit of sinking the Merrimac in the harbor channel of Santiago de Cuba, and since then. Hobson showed no such natural force, ability or dignity as to mark him as a better man for Congress than BANKHEAD.

In spite of the skill and experience of the older man, however, Hobson was able to make great headway among the voters, and came near winning the

life. Some of Hobson's support came from these enemies of his opponent. But allowing this element full weight, many of the younger man's votes unquestionably came from citizens who made their choice without personal bias.

## The Proceedings Against Judge

Swayne. The House of Representatives on April 7 adopted a resolution postponing until Dec. 13 the consideration of the resolution of impeachment reported by a majority of the Committee on Judiciary against Judge CHARLES SWAYNE of the United States District Court of Northern Florida. The committee is authorized to take further testimony from Judge SWAYNE's accusers and in his defence this summer and fall, and to present a new report of the evidence and its conclusions in the case.

By adopting this resolution the House has accomplished two objects. The first is to give another opportunity to the strong minority of the committee which opposed a report in favor of impeachment to urge their views of the case upon the majority, and thus continue their efforts to prevent what they regard as an injustice to Judge SWAYNE. The second object attained by the House is to relieve Congress of the necessity of prolonging the present session in order that the Senate may try the case

The majority report of the committee against Judge SWAYNE received great publicity last month, and produced an erroneous and unfounded impression that the House had acted upon it and brought impeachment proceedings against him. This is not the case, and in view of his strong defence, as outlined by the minority of the Committee on Judiciary, it may at least be hoped that further consideration of the facts will result in clearing Judge SWAYNE of the charges against him and render actual impeachment proceedings un-

## necessary.

The Latest Move in the Asphalt Suits. About four months ago prominence was given to a proposal for a receiver's assessment on the unpaid shares of the Asphalt Trust. The nominal liability on those shares amounted to \$24,000,000. We said at that time that this club was made of pasteboard and would fall on shadowy shoulders. It is very doubtful if FRANCIS V. GREENE and the other promoters of the unsavory Asphalt enterprise have ever lost a moment's sleep from fear of being obliged to surrender that which they took from the

investing public. Receiver TATNALL has now expressed his opinion, supported by that of eminent legal counsel, that no recovery on these unpaid shares is probable, and that recovery of more than \$2,600,000 is virtually impossible. Should even this be paid, it would probably go back into the same pockets from which it was taken. The whole proceeding i not a little farcical, and the incident may probably be regarded as closed.

Men of presumably high standing in the financial world launched a huge and vastly overcapitalized industrial enterprise. The public was invited to come on board with its savings, and it clamored for an opportunity to do so. The projectors took the money, and the enterprise went to pieces-just as might have been predicted by any sound-minded man of business investigating it. The public burnt its fingers, as it had done before, has done since, and will doubtless do again in days to come.

Not the least remarkable feature in such enterprises is the persistent supply of fingers ready for burning.

If the Aldermen had been alive to their duties the near side car stop rule would have been repealed three months ago instead of yesterday. A week's experience showed that it was a bothersome, dangerous piece of nonsense. Only when the Aldermen found that the rule had not one defender in the city did they obey the popular demand and repeal it. The experiment was tried at the season when the streets were at their worst, and what New York has to thank the Aldermen for is three months of discomfort.

Russia could afford to lose no single man among her commanders less than Admiral MAKAROFF, who has died a gallant sailor's death, going down with his ship at Port Arthur. His brilliant exploits in time of peace, his initiative and disregard of convention and red tape, won for him a popularity much like that of Lord CHARLES BERES-FORD in England, so that his appointment to the Far East command gave confidence to

Government and people alike. MAKABOFF found himself with a desperate task on his hands, a fact that must be considered in judging his actions during the last few weeks. Hopelessly weaker than his Japanese opponent, he was obliged to meet him in sudden reckless sallies, unless he maintained a purely inactive defence The need of keeping up the spirits of the Russians at home as well as the besieged clearly accounts for his strategy. The depression caused by his loss will be in proportion to the hopes built on him.

To geographical science MAKAROFF's loss is very great. The years he had spent on the problems of ice-breaking steamers. and the brilliant practical success of the Ermak, made his ambition of building an ice breaker that could cut its way to the Pole seem possible, if not probable. Though in the one attempt made on the polar pack the Ermak was obliged to turn back, she did so well then, and proved so effective in the work for which she was intended, the opening of the Baltic ports in winter, that anything seemed possible from MAKAROFF'S next boat. It would at least keep open the northern sea lane to Siberia. Still, what sailor and what Russian will

Reduced to mathematical figures, the new Republican State Committee is just about ninety-five per cent. more ODELL than the old one-plus OpeLL in command

not envy him his death!

in person. This fact should be understood from the

# The Chesapeake and Mayflower.

"Don't give up the ship!" Cried Lawrence in the fray: See his noble words Acted on to-day.

Heedless of the shell.

Heedless of the shot Sticking to "his yacht." MCLANDBURGE WILSON. RUSSIA'S INTERNAL DANGERS." Letter From Mr. Michael Davitt.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: When THE SUN condescends to borrow rays of light or leading from so obscurantist a source as the London Times it does not add to its proverbial brightness nor borrow editorial wisdom from one of the most prejudiced organs of the world's public opinion. But, be this as it may, one can find pleasure in reading THE SUN, even when it is found shining, as in this instance, in the worst of jour-nalistic company. This satisfaction does not arise from any agreement in your conclusions, but in the literary ability which you employ in wrongly accepting the views of an organ so openly hostile to everything Russian as the leading English newspaper. You indorse what the Times is pleased to

say of "Russia's internal dangers," there is discontent in Finland, disaffection in Poland, some trouble in the Caucasus and alleged corruption in the administration of the Czar's Government. dignation of the Times at these evidences of Russian injustice and wrongdoing is most edifying. What organ of public feeling could be more consistent in this respect than the paper which hounded on the great British Empire to crush two little republics in South Africa, in order that their gold mines could be stolen, and which can shed tears at the loss of Polish liberty while denying a similar liberty to the Irish people? Russia has not yet quenched the freedom of Finland in the blood of its people, as England did with the Boers three years ago. Nor do the Czar's officials draw £30,000,000 annually from a subjugated people, in crushing taxation as British officials do from India, without any compensation in return to a country the working population of which enjoys the blessings of Anglo-Saxon rule in the form of an average wage of some five cents per day. with South Africa, India and Ireland on her hands, England is just the nation that is called upon to throw stones at the glass houses of her Russian neighbor!

"Corruption" in Russian administration is an easy task of newspaper allegation. But are all other civilized Governments immacu Why, I read in this day's issue of one of your New York contemporaries an editorial in which the following charges are made, not against Russian, but against the perfection of all human institutions—the very Govern-ment of this mighty republic: "The predatory rich are in possession of the National Gov-ernment": "organized greed must be voted out of power"; "strike at corruption in gov-ernment -corruption is its natural fruit," &c.

Now, sir, suppose I was an intelligent Russian travelling in the United States, instead of an Irish greenhorn, and should read not only these but even stronger assertions of similar kind in hundreds of other papers and suppose, also, that I read of trades leaders being arrested by a military force ne day, and learned the next day that the Judges of the law ordered the release of these citizens on habeas corpus and that the military officer point blank refused to obey the mandate of the law-should I be justified in coming to the conclusion that Uncle Sam's reat republic was on the point of "disrup-Surely not.

There are many other lamentable evils my maginary Russian tourist would discover in this land of paragon peoples and principles that would astonish him as having no parallel even in despotic Russia. He would earn of two thousand projected evictions i the city of New York on account of an arbirary increase of rent. He would read of thousands of divorces each year. There are no divorces in Russia, I think; but of this I am not sure. Statistics would inform him over 8,000 homicides within the United States during last year, among a population 80,000,000, while among Russia's 145,000. 000 of despotically governed people there were not, in the same year, 150 like crimes. He would learn of mob law and of the burning of negroes alive, on accusation alone, and of many more deeds which are to the discredit of our boasted civilization. But he would not, on this account, be justified in to any sweeping conclusions as to any in-herent evil in your republican form of gov-ernment that would warrant him in predictng its proximate downfall as a preliminary the establishment of an despotism" like unto that which my imag inary Russian might in his heart prefer to the form of rule he would blame (according to SUN) for the many glaring evils he would the newspapers of this United States.

It is well to bear in mind that Russia is ruling at least as many races as those who have found new homes within the wide dominion of your republic. The better and more enlightened bond of Federal institutions unites your composite population in one great system. What you call "despotism" and Russians term "paternalism" cements the racial elements of the Czar's enormous realm You have had your mighty civil war for the reedom of Southern slaves since a bloodess decree of a Russian ruler gave not only liberty but land to the emancipated serfs of his empire. Which, may I ask, was the more enlightened method of carrying out a righteous reform? I wish when you freed the negroes of the South you had given them land and homesteads, too. There would be no "black race problem" to-day if you had cted as humanely as Russia in this respect. · I am not defending Russian rule either Finland or in Poland. I am for liberty to al nationalities and for wrongdoing n But I detest hypocrisy; and England's hyon this side of the Atlantic as her other vices of imperial jingoism and her blatant boastings of superior racial qualities to those of MICHAEL DAVITT. NEW YORK, April 12.

### New York's Disruptive Habits

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: During a somewhat lengthy sojourn in the Empire City-over fifty years—I have seen many changes in the good old town; many in the line of improvement some otherwise; but there is one little peculiarity of ours that has undergone no change whatever. allude to the practice of eternally digging up the streets, generally on very slight provocation.

I well remember stepping out of one of the old
Harlem cars on the corner of White and Centre treets over fifty years ago, and dodging an im mense pile of dirt in the centre of the street; and if you were in the same neighborhood to-day, you rould not have to search far to find its twin brother The usual course of procedure seems to be first to carefully lay the pavement—this is seldom omitted—and then after an interval of, say, two or three reeks, have another gang of men dig it up again eaving a mass of debris in the middle of the street for two or three months to "settle," when the process s all gone through with again.

to the common, unscientific mind, this seems a costly and rather foolish proceeding. Du ing one of the periodical upheavals, why cannot a subway be constructed of sufficient size to hold all of the numerous pipes and drains, so that these frequent disturbances of the surface can be avoided? Is there anything in this problem that would be NEW YORK, April 13. OLD RESID

### Prepositions in Slang.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Sir: A good dea f slang can be defended on the ground that it is picturesque or compact-that it express deal within a small compass; but I think very little can be said for certain expressions of slang which merely expand the volume of a sentence. Here are some examples: "It is up to you to do so and so"; more simply one would say "it is for you to " Here is another, "to win out" or "to lose out. Is this more expressive than the simple "to win" or "to lose"? Furthermore is the form "I won't stand for that" more emphatic than "I won't stand

NEW YORK, April 13.

Unexciting.

Friend-Do you golf? Chausteur-No, it is so very hard to hit anybody We May, but Let No One Else. From the Cedar Rapids Record

AND GOETHE'S

It is an interesting fact that the idea of an Isthmian canal connecting the Atlantic and the Pacific was already well outlined in the eighteenth century. Gabriel Marcel, the French geographer, while rummaging in a Paris book shop a while ago unearthed an eighteenth century map which showed the project of De la Bastide for a canal across the American Isthmus by the Nicaragua route. As in the more recent projects, the route was traced up the San Juan River to Lake Nicaragua, on whose broad surface three ships were shown in full sail, and the suggested route for the canal was clearly

marked out. This map is mentioned in books of the latter part of the eighteenth century; but no copy is known to be in existence excepting that found by M. Marcel. Of course the difficulties in the way of the project were not realized at that time, for the maps and descriptions of the Isthmian region

were very imperfect. The project of the eighteenth century will apparently never come true; nor is the dream of Goethe, a little later, in its actual specifications likely to be realized. The Frankfurter Zeitung recently recalled what Goethe said to Eckermann of the incalculable benefits for the human race that would follow the digging of a canal between the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific. There, in his opinion, was the place for the canal, and the United States was the Power to dig it. "It is entirely indispensable," he said, "for the United States to make a passage from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean; and I am certain that she will accomplish it.

He knew what he was talking about when he said the United States would dig the canal, even though he did not hit upon its exact geographical position.

#### Rathbone's Appeal.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In your issue of April 12, Mr. Van Buren Kinney urges that Cuba is the proper place for Estes G Rathbone to seek a vindication. It is evident that Mr. Kinney, like many of his fellow citizens, has no knowledge of a case on which

he ventures an opinion. Mr. Rathbone was tried under Spanish laws, but under American authority which, for the time being, had made those laws its own for use in the island. The Cuban Government had nothing to do with the postal cases, inasmuch as there was at that time no Cuban Government. Laws are not a government, but an instrument of government and Spanish law in Cuba became the instrument of American government. The present Government of Cuba as a tribunal in such a case is impossible under the circumstances. Its own amnesty bill, under which Rathbone was released, would debar it from action

even were action otherwise possible.

Mr. Rathbone makes his appeal in all propriety to those under whose auspices he was tried and sentenced, as he asserts, illegally and unjustly. Charges which he preferred against Gen. Wood, under oath, were summarily dismissed on no more basis than Gen Vood's unsworn denial-not refutation. His appeal, as an American citizen, to Presi Roosevelt remained unnoticed. Senate committee evades a reopening of the

case -perhaps for political reasons. A man who held the confidence of President McKinley and Senator Hanna, who to-day is regarded as an innocent man by men prominence and high standing, and who is regarded by thousands as one who perhaps erred in judgment, but not in act, asks investigation in the name of his American citizenship, from the only authority which can recognize his case. Cuba is entirely out of any possible connection with the mat ter. Washington is not, and Washington should give the man the hearing which he asks as an act of justice.

#### A STUDENT OF THE CASE. NEW YORK, April 12.

England Will ! TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Pursuant of your so skilfully broached inquiry, "Will England Offer an Olive Branch to Russia?" many a reader must have answered, with conviction. "She wi suggests readily a further conclusion. In case "Perfidious Albion" (yet dear to us, no matter how "perfidious!") should find expedient reason for transferring her sympa thies from Mongol to Slav, then, it is a safe prophecy, we shall find ourselves experiencing a similar change of heart. On the other sult of calling China into the field, it may be more hazardous), that eventually we shall more hazardous), that eventually we shau see Russia and England—the one from the north, the other from the south—joining hands to save their respective imperial possessions from Mongolian spoliation: And then will tow lemonde (else lissue grave warning against a Slav-Anglo-Saxon "peril?"

NEW BRIGHTON, ADRIL 11.

### NEW BRIGHTON, April 11.

### The Aurania Also?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: You evidently litted a very important paragraph from Mr Vernon H. Brown's letter to you, dated April 6 with regard to the Hungarian emigrant service recently inaugurated by the Cunard company.

Mr. Brown criticises your statement, viz: "Instead of modern steamers, the Cunard line has placed in its service two of its oldest ships," &c. He proceeds to describe the ships that have been placed in the service, and speaks of the Slavonia.

Carpathia, Ultonia and Pannonia. He refrains, however, from mentioning the Aurania, a contemporary of Noah's Ark or there-about, which ship constitutes the "fifth departure

While I think your criticism of the Cunard com-pany's attitude in regard to this Hungarian emi-grant service was rather severe and uncalled for. still Mr. Brown should not have sent you an inco British steamship men generally, both on this

amazed and much pleased at the Cunard com pany's recent awakening from the state of leth-argy in which it had reposed for a decade. So, please deal with the company in the most chartable manner possible, as this renewed activity on its part means a great deal for a large numb of worthy navigation men in their employ who have waited long and patiently for promotion, which is now blosseming forth.

NEW YORE, April 12. RALPH ASHCROPT.

### Why Secretary Shaw Was Late. From the Washington Post. A Government scientist, who has attained eminence in his profession, gave a dinner not long

ago in honor of ex-Speaker Henderson. As this scientist is an Iowa man, he decided to make it distinctly an lows dinner, and invited distin guished lowans in town. That, of course, included Secretary Shaw, Secretary Wilson, Senator Allison and others. The hour was 7 o'clock, and all the guests wer then on hand except Mr. Shaw. The dinner party waited and waited. Finally it was 7:30 o'clock, "Shall we wait longer for the Secretary?" inquired

the host for the fifth or sixth time. It was decided

not to wait further, and the dinner was served.
At exactly 7:55 o'clock the Secretary of the Treasury was announced. His explanation has been a joke among the lowa contingent in Washington ever since. "I thought the dinner was for 8 o'clock," said he in evident embarrassment, "I arrived outside at 7.30 by my watch. It was so early I decided to walk up and down the street till I saw some one else come. But no one came, and

so I had to enter alone." lishment.

#### Signal Proof of Confidence in This Estab-TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It is reported

in this morning's SUN that "Prof. Ramsay has declared that radium will disappear within 1,150 I am willing to wager a small sum, and allow TRE SUN to act as stakeholder, that the Professor

NEW YORK, April 12. Postcard Thirty-two Years Going a Mile.

From the London Datly Mail.

A postcard, posted in Swindon on April 16, 1872, has just reached the addressee's son, having taken thirty-two years to arrive at its destination, which

Both sepder and the man to whom the letter was addressed have been dead for many years

siderably less than a mile from the place

BASTIDE'S INTEROCEANIC CANAL NO GO FOR PORT CHESTER ROAD. Aldermen Refuse Again to Send Its Appli-

> eation to the Board of Estimate The Aldermen are still blocking the Port Chester Railway. Alderman Goodman moved yesterday at the board's meeting that the Committee on Railroads be di rected to send the application of the company to the Board of Estimate, as has been done in the case of the Westchester com-

Borough President Haffen of The Bronx seconded Mr. Goodman's resolution. He agreed with Mr. Goodman that the delain sanctioning the building of a high speed railroad through The Bronx was keeping out of work thousands of unemployed men. "I would also second this resolution." said Little Tim Sullivan, "if I thought it was offered in good faith. But, as usual, Mr. Goodman is playing to the gallery. How long has he represented the interests How long has he represented the interests of The Bronx? I also object to any committee being directed to do something that it is already considering. That committee is now considering the application of the Port Chester company and will give a public hearing on it some time. As to this talk about delay—why didn't the Republican Legislature pass the Port Chester's bill. That bill is still in committee, and it has been kept there. I guess, because the has been kept there, I guess, because the committee has found out that the Port Chester company is not all it claims to be. Mr. Goodman is playing for a little cheen poteriety."

be. Mr. Goodna.
cheap notoriety."

Tim moved to table the resolution and shut off debate by moving the previous question. The resolution was tabled by

#### War and Peace.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Von Moltke said of war:

War is holy and of divine institution: it is one f the sacred laws of nature; it keeps alive in men all the great and noble sentiments, honor, dis interestedness, virtue, courage; in one word, it prevents them from falling into the most hideous

Guy de Maupassant replied:

Therefore, to collect a herd of some four hundred housand men, march day and night without res pite; to think of nothing, study nothing, learn nothing, read nothing, be of no earthly use to any one, rot with dirt, lie down in mire, live like brutes in a continual besotment, pillage towns, burn villages, ruin nations; then, meeting another similar agglomeration of human flesh, rush upon it, shed lakes of blood, cover plains with pounded flesh mingled with muddy and bloody earth; pile up heaps of slain; have arms and legs blown off, brains scattered without benefit to any one, and perish at the corner of some field while your parents, your wife, your children are dying of hunger this is what is called not falling into the most

Do not both present a truth? At the bottom of the sublime there is mud-and the norrible has something of the sublime. Are not the competitive struggles in the industrial sphere a worse thing than war, with its fields of flattened flesh? Are not all the highly praised arts of peace but subtilized forms of aggression? Has not Von Moitke sensed the deeper truth when he says war is "one of the sacred laws of nature"? There is no peace anywhere. Men closely herded together in peaceful communities will find means to prey on each other, and will invent refinements of torture undreamed of by

Maxims and Krupps. In "The Vicar of Tours" Balzac has pictured this propensity in a masterly fashion Maupassant's picture is compelling; but that single moment that the soldier earns, that one fine minute of o'erstretched self when he rises in sombre magnificence to the very crown of his ego, when each latent instinct becomes a burning brand, and the elemental, the barbaric, the Adamic in his nature make of him for just a point in time god-is not that minute worth all the rest

while we of peaceful ways crawl into heaven with our anæmia full upon us. BENJAMIN DE CASSERES. NEW YORK, April 13.

of his stupid days? He goes outfull-blooded,

Commercial Effect of the Eastern War. Consumers of Japanese mattings, silks, teas for a rise in the prices of these commodities soon, as a result of the mobilizing of the Japanese armies for operations against the Rus reserve men have resulted in a great decreasin the supply of skilled labor, and as the women employed in the less skilled branches of trade have found it necessary to supply

women employed in the less skilled branches of trade have found it necessary to supply the places of the men in the fields, unskilled labor is also feeling the effect of the war. Mattings have gone up a quarter of a cent gold a yard, and the increase will become greater as the war continues.

It is expected in the trade that labor will go higher rapidly, and this will be accompanied by an increased difficulty in obtaining the services of skilled hands. Most of these—the superintendents, foremen, packers, and the like—belong in the second reserve of the Japanese army, and are now being called into active service. The work which they do in civil life requires a careful training, and this cannot be imparted in a short time.

The latest commercial advices from trustworthy sources in Japan indicate that the upward tendency of prices will be accelerated greatly within a short time. Prices in this country are bound to respond to the influences at work in the empire, and a general increase in the cost of all classes of Japanese goods is expected in the trade within a short time.

### The Moral Qualities of the Japanese

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In his letter in to-day's Sun Mr. James Henry Rice. Jr., of Conway, S. C., editor of the Field, says of the Chinese and Japanese that these races "have lived without a conception of

morals from the dawn of their history. To-day the Japanese compare favorably

To-day the Japanese compare favorably with the Caucasian in what are really the fundamental virtues—honesty, kindliness, truthfulness. It is likely that during the Middle Ages the national life of Japan was superior in these virtues to the national life of European countries.

The Japanese by all accounts are a kindly race. They are kind to their children and families; respectful to old age, without letting tradition hinder progress; they are, or at least were until contact with Europeans, an honest people; and cash registers do not seem to be an essential of their civilization. If these are the results of being "without a conception of morals," then the sooner our Western morality is discarded the better for our happiness. western morality our happiness.

Possibly, however, the fault is with Mr.

Rice's color blindness rather than with the easential morality of either the yellow or white race.

A. C. PLEYDELL.

#### NEW YORK, April 12. An Ontside Estimate of Odell

From Gunton's Magazine. Odell is a cunning grocery man in politics He knows how to wet the sugar, and put peas in the coffee with a real Sunday school smile. Nobody has absolute faith in him; he is such large, unknown quantity

### A Sicilian View of J. Chamberlain.

From the Palermo Ora.

Mr. Chamberlain has arrived. We have seen the elegant statesman, just for one moment. He dresses magnificently, being one of those English men whose bearing renders elegant any jacket or pair of trousers. He is preoccupied elegance. His buttonhole is eternally flowered with an orchid. whatever may be the clothes worn. Mr. Cham beriain looks still young. Yet he must have reached his sixtleth year! These Englishmen, carefully shaved, look perennially youthful.

From the London Daily Chronicle.

Trade has curious traditions. The tailor continues to affix those two unnecessary buttons to our coat cuff, and would never dream of dropping the buttons at the back of our frock coat, though as Sir Lucius O'Trigger observed more than a century ago, "we wear no swords." Does any man went an umbrella cover? Yet you will scarcely buy an umbrella that has not to be denuded of that strange incumbrance.

Spring and summer fashions naturally predomi-nate in the Delineator for May, together with the great body of advice that the changing season demands, ranging from housebuilding to the man agement of domestics and the planting of flowers. The literary side is not neglected, however. Beside's short stories and poems, there are articles on Catherine Sevier, the first of a series on American pioneer women, and on Marcella Sembrich, by Mr. G. Kobbe, with illustrations, while the photographs of tour around the world continue to be striking and